

Nazi Human Experimentation: How Medical Exploration Became Outright Torture

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*“In short, this conspiracy was a ghastly failure as well as a hideous crime. The creeping paralysis of Nazi superstition spread through the German medical profession and, just as it destroyed character and morals, it dulled the mind.”*¹

The Nazi Human Experiments: Horrors Beyond Modern Belief

¹ *Opening Statement in the Doctors Trial by Brig. General Telford Taylor.* 1946. TS. University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City. University of Missouri-Kansas City. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

In today's society, doctors and physicians are known as people who help us return to, and maintain, good health. However, on August 20, 1947, the Nuremberg Doctors Trial accused 23 Nazi doctors and physicians of unethically conducting various medical experiments on other humans.² Of the 23 accused, 15 of the doctors were found guilty of war crimes, and seven were sentenced to hanging.³ During the Nuremberg Doctors Trial, these members of the Third Reich party were found to have conducted nightmarish scientific explorations, from testing the effects of freezing and heating upon the human body, to needlessly amputating limbs off of human victims and attempting to transplant them onto others who lack that limb.⁴ The most bone-chilling element of these experiments was that Nazi doctors conducted them without any regard to the consent of those being experimented upon, something horribly unethical in today's medical world.⁵ As a result of the examination of these Nazi crimes towards humanity, the Nuremberg Code was drafted at the end of the Doctors Trial to prevent these experiments from ever happening again; this document remains one of the guiding documents in regard to medical ethicality today.⁶ Without any doubt, the World Court's verdict over the gruesome Nazi human experiments rewrote the rules regarding what doctors can and cannot do, and impacted the medical world forever.

Advancing Nazi Racial Views and Creating the Master Race

² "Nuremberg Trials". *History.com*. A+E Networks, 2010. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

³ Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ "Nuremberg Code". *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

One of the key reasons the Nazis conducted medical experiments was to further progress their dream of a master “Aryan” race, and to weaken the Jewish race as a result.⁷ During his tenure as chancellor of Germany, Adolf Hitler established his racial idea that the Jews were sworn enemies of the Germans and instilled this idea across the Nazi party.⁸ The Nazi government published a series of pamphlets and released propaganda spreading Hitler’s racial concepts, including *The German National Catechism*, which was a government pamphlet designed to teach young Germans the 25 key points of the Nazi party (see Appendix A).⁹ This pamphlet states that “the goal of the Jew is to make himself the ruler of humanity”, and that the Jew “is not a creative spirit, rather a destructive spirit”.¹⁰ Nazi racism depicted the Jews as a “parasitic race” that hindered the ideas of German perfection, and needed to be thoroughly removed from Europe.¹¹

The Nazis also had a clear vision of what their master race would look like and do for Germany.¹² Hitler envisioned that the perfect “Aryan” for his ideal race had blue eyes, blonde hair, and was tall.¹³ Just as the Nazis spread their racial ideas regarding the Jews, the Nazis made it a goal to instill the ideas of the master race within all of Germany using propaganda.¹⁴ *The German National Catechism* states that Germans “are a link in a great chain, a part of the whole”, and that “when you live for your people you are everything”, in the eyes of Hitler.¹⁵ A

⁷ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁸ Nyiszli, Miklos. *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*. New York: Arcade Publishing, 2011. Print. Pg. 178.

⁹ May, Werner. *The German National Catechism*. TS. Calvin College, Grand Rapids. *Calvin College*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Nyiszli, Miklos. *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*. New York: Arcade Publishing, 2011. Print. Pg. 110.

¹² “Nazi Racism”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Kor, Eva. *Surviving the Angel of Death: The True Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz*. Terre Haute: Tanglewood, 2009. Print. Pg. 11.

¹⁵ May, Werner. *The German National Catechism*. TS. Calvin College, Grand Rapids. *Calvin College*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

pamphlet for Nazi officials, *Racial Policy*, also pointed out and explained Nazi views over different races.¹⁶ *Racial Policy* told the Nazi party that “the accomplishments of the Nordic race are the highest of any race in Europe”, and that all true Germans were connected to this Nordic Race and bound to it.¹⁷

The Nazi’s racial tenets and theories were one of the key reasons the Nazis did many of the things they did in their heinous experiments.¹⁸ The Nazis wanted to both quickly advance the strength of Third Reich Germany and to deplete the power the Jews had.¹⁹ Hitler believed that by destroying and minimizing “enemy” minority groups, there would be fewer threats to “weaken and destabilize” the Nazi empire he envisioned.²⁰ Not only was this the reason Hitler established concentration camps to exterminate minorities, but it was why medical experiments were normally conducted upon these groups, especially the Jews.²¹ In a Nazi letter from SS-Standartenfuhrer Sievers to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Dr. Brandt, Sievers asks Brandt for “150 skeletons of prisoners, or rather Jews” in order to conduct his experiments.²² Clearly, the Nazis had a lot of prejudice towards the Jews and other minority groups, and this translated over to the way they conducted their experiments.

Nazi racism fueled many types of unethical experiments, along with Nazi hopes of making the Third Reich a world superpower.²³ Because the Nazi party was enthralled with the

¹⁶ Reichsfuhrer SS-Hauptamt. *Racial Policy 1943*. 1943. Calvin College, Grand Rapids. *Calvin College*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ “Nazi Ideological Theory”. *Nazism.net*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

²¹ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

²² SS-Standartenfuhrer Sievers. *Letter to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Dr. Brandt 2 Nov. 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

²³ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

idea of the Aryan race, German doctors and physicians conducted various genetic experiments, in the hopes of refining desirable “master” traits down to the human genome and gaining control over these characteristics.²⁴ Perhaps the most infamous example of the Nazi’s genetic experiments were Josef Mengele’s experiments on twins at the Auschwitz concentration camp (see Appendix B).²⁵ Also known as the “Angel of Death”, Dr. Mengele was looking to derive the secret of multiple births at one time, in order to expand the German population.²⁶ Mengele got all living data that he could retrieve from each pair of twins, and then each twin was given a single injection of chloroform to the heart.²⁷ During his experimentation on twins, Josef Mengele was the doctor of nightmares. Mengele was known to have injected chemicals into the twins eyes in attempts to change their eye color, to stitch twins together, and remove organs and limbs without the usage of an anesthetic, on top of other horrific deeds.²⁸

The Nazis also used human experimentation to explore more efficient ways of sterilizing minority groups and those with undesirable traits.²⁹ The Nazi government passed a law allowing forced sterilizations for many minority groups, such as Jews and Gypsies, and people with physical and mental disabilities, in an effort to spread desirable “Aryan” traits throughout future generations (see Appendix C).³⁰ Sterilization gave the Nazis a way to further advance their dream of a Third Reich empire, since it made it impossible for those affected to ever have

²⁴ “Medical Experiments of the Holocaust and Nazi Medicine”. *Remember.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

²⁵ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

²⁶ Nyiszli, Miklos. *Auschwitz: A Doctor’s Eyewitness Account*. New York: Arcade Publishing, 2011. Print. Pg. 31.

²⁷ Kor, Eva. *Surviving the Angel of Death: The True Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz*. Terre Haute: Tanglewood, 2009. Print. Pg. 68.

²⁸ Bulow, Louis. “Josef Mengele, The Angel of Death”. *Mengele.dk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

²⁹ Tyson, Peter. “The Experiments”. *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

³⁰ “Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race”. *Jewish Virtual Library*. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

children and pass on “undesirable” traits.³¹ However, these unethical experiments scarred many victims for life, both mentally and physically.³²

Increasing Military Knowledge Through Human Experiments

Another main objective of the Nazi human experiments was to gain medical knowledge in regards to further strengthening Axis military powers.³³ Winning the war was extremely important in the Nazi’s plan to become an empire, and they believed it was essential for them to gain the upper hand medically to take care of their troops.³⁴ The Nazis were so serious about Axis medical knowledge that German military officials were often required to be present during many human experiments regarding knowledge for the war.³⁵ In a letter from SS-Sturmbannfuhrer Brandt to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Sievers, this is the case, as Brandt says that an altitude experiment can only be conducted “under the conditions that SS-Untersturmfuhrer Dr. Rascher who is an Obersturmfuhrer in the air-force, will take part in them.”³⁶

Many Nazi human experiments were aimed to increase the survival rate of troops in harsh conditions.³⁷ At the concentration camp in Dachau, prisoners were subjected to low-pressure chambers (see Appendix D) which simulated altitudes of up to 68,000 feet.³⁸ Through these altitude experiments, the German air force was looking to determine a way that Axis pilots could safely parachute from their planes at high altitudes, and to discover the effects different altitudes

³¹ “Nazi Racism”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

³² Tyson, Peter. “The Experiments”. *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

³³ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ SS-Sturmbannfuhrer Brandt. *Letter to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Sievers 21 March 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ “Nazi Medical Experiments”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015

³⁸ Tyson, Peter. “The Experiments”. *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

had on the human body.³⁹ A letter from SS-Untersturmfuhrer Rascher to Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler illustrates that the doctors present at these altitude experiments would record all data up to death, and then dissect the victim's brain to look for air bubbles.⁴⁰ Eighty of the 200 victims targeted in Nazi altitude experiments died outright; the survivors were executed after testing.⁴¹

Nazi doctors also performed freezing experiments upon human victims in order to better understand how to combat the cold on the Eastern front of the war.⁴² During World War II, Germany was not prepared to face the harsh, frigid conditions of Russia and Eastern Europe.⁴³ Also, thousands of German soldiers died or were severely crippled by hypothermia on the Eastern front.⁴⁴ These experiments, conducted at Auschwitz and Dachau, were designed to lower the body temperature of a test subject to 79.7 degrees fahrenheit, through the usage of vat of icy water.⁴⁵ Victims were kept in these icy vats for up to five hours at a time, either naked or in an aviator's suit, which help simulate the extreme cold's effects on a downed pilot.⁴⁶ The Nazis, looking for medical answers for all situations possible, often conducted experiments using different Axis flight suits, "winter or summer combination", and different positions of the head and body within the water.⁴⁷ Doctors unethically collected medical data through these experiments while victims struggled and lost consciousness, showing no mercy whatsoever.⁴⁸

³⁹ Ibid.

⁴⁰ SS-Untersturmfuhrer Rascher. *Letter to Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler 11 May 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

⁴¹ Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁴² "Medical Experiments of the Holocaust and Nazi Medicine". *Remember.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ SS-Untersturmfuhrer Rascher. *Report about intense cooling experiments in Dachau concentration camps 10 Sep. 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

⁴⁸ Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

The process Nazi doctors used to rewarm victims of freezing experiments was just as heinous and cruel as the frigid temperatures.⁴⁹ After victims lost consciousness in the cooling tubs, they were revived using a series of different and often painful methods, including sun lamps, internal irrigation with scalding water, hot baths, and even copulation with naked women.⁵⁰ Victims were sometimes repeatedly chilled to unconsciousness and rewarmed, and many attempts at raising victims' body temperatures led to death through shock and blistering temperatures.⁵¹ Through the continuous experimental cycle of freezing and reheating, about 80 to 100 people were murdered.⁵²

Nazi human experiments also looked to find efficient ways to treat diseases and injuries that occurred on the battlefield during the war.⁵³ One of the major sites for these experiments was Ravensbruck concentration camp, which was solely female.⁵⁴ Prisoners at this camp, known commonly as "rabbits", were subject to the testing of sulfanilamide drugs, to treat war wounds infected with bacteria.⁵⁵ The Nazi's victims were deliberately cut or gashed, quite similarly to injuries sustained on the front lines, and various bacteria was introduced into the wound.⁵⁶ These infections were then further worsened by wood splinters and glass shards being rubbed into the wound, to further simulate the conditions of war (see Appendix E).⁵⁷ Blood vessels were tied off

⁴⁹ "Medical Experiments of the Holocaust and Nazi Medicine". *Remember.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁵³ "Nazi Medical Experiments". *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015

⁵⁴ Cecil, Hugh. "The 'rabbits' of Ravensbrück: a horrific account of the medical experiments performed at Hitler's only all-female concentration camp". *The Spectator* 31 Jan. 2015: n.p. *The Spectator*. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁵⁵ "Nazi Medical Experiments". *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015

⁵⁶ Leszczyński, Kazimierz. "Ravensbruck Medical Experiments in the Women's Concentration Camp". University of Toronto, 1960. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

on the sides of the victim's injury, also simulating war through the usage of tourniquets.⁵⁸ These experiments were often fatal, or resulted in the victim's disfiguration for the rest of their lives.⁵⁹

At Ravensbruck, experiments were also conducted to see if bones and other parts of the body could be transplanted from one person to another (see Appendix F).⁶⁰ Nazi doctors needlessly amputated limbs and shoulders off of prisoners, and all attempts to attach them to another person without that limb were unsuccessful.⁶¹ The Nazis also looked to study how bones, muscles, and nerves regenerated and recovered, and doctors deliberately took sections of these body parts and dissected them.⁶² Victims of these experiments were severely mutilated for the rest of their lives, and once again several were unethically murdered.⁶³

The Nuremberg Code: Changing Medical Ethics Forever

After the Axis powers' defeat during World War II, the World Court brought a large group of Nazi officials, lawyers, manufacturers, and doctors to trial on accusations of crimes against humanity.⁶⁴ Lasting from 1945 to 1949, this series of trials also held a separate Doctors Trial, in which 23 of the many Nazi doctors and physicians were tried for the countless inhumanities of their experiments.⁶⁵ The judges present at the Doctors Trials reached a final verdict on August 19, 1947; that 15 of the Nazi defendants were guilty.⁶⁶ However, these German physicians and scientists argued that there was no clear rules defining what was

⁵⁸ Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁵⁹ Leszczyński, Kazimierz. "Ravensbruck Medical Experiments in the Women's Concentration Camp". University of Toronto, 1960. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁶⁰ "Primary Sources". *Medical Experimentation during the Holocaust*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁶¹ Tyson, Peter. "The Experiments". *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Leszczyński, Kazimierz. "Ravensbruck Medical Experiments in the Women's Concentration Camp". University of Toronto, 1960. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁶⁴ "Nuremberg Trials". *History.com*. A+E Networks, 2010. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁶⁵ Bulow, Louis. "The Nazi Doctors". *Auschwitz.dk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁶⁶ "Nuremberg Code". *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

considered unethical in regards to human experimentation.⁶⁷ Two American doctors who testified against the Nazis, Dr. Andrew Ivy and Dr. Leo Alexander, were perturbed by this point, and proposed a set of six guidelines to prevent any genuine misunderstanding regarding medical ethics.⁶⁸ By the end of the Doctors Trials, that collection of rules would become a key document for doctors all across the world; the Nuremberg Code.⁶⁹

The Nuremberg Code's ten points were established in order to improve and define the connection between patient and doctor, and to prevent the horrors and nightmares of the Nazi's human experiments from ever happening again.⁷⁰ Because of the Nuremberg Code, the patient determines what the doctor can or cannot do to them, which contrasts the Hippocratic Oath, a previous set of medical guidelines.⁷¹ The Hippocratic Oath states that the doctor has a complete control over the welfare of their patient, but because of the way the Nazis abused this special trust for their own good, the Nuremberg Code places this power within the patient.⁷² For example, the code itself states that "the human subject should be at liberty to bring the experiment to an end" at any time.⁷³ By giving the patient the power to end any experiment they volunteer to take part in, it prevents the doctor from continuing it for their benefit, just as the Nazis did to collect data to improve their military knowledge or strengthen their dream of a master race.⁷⁴ The Nuremberg Code has further evolved into the main set of defining rules

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ "The Nuremberg Code". *The Evolution of Medical Ethics*. Rice University, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁷¹ Ibid.

⁷² Ibid.

⁷³ *The Nuremberg Code 1947*. 1947. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Web. 21 December 2015.

⁷⁴ "Nuremberg Code". *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

regarding a doctor's treatment of patients, and arguably has become the most important outcome of the Nuremberg Doctors Trials.⁷⁵

A Lasting Nightmare of Medical Immorality

Although the Nuremberg Trials brought justice to a large portion of the Nazi doctors, many of these German murderers got away with their crimes, and lived a full life.⁷⁶ In the case of the notorious Dr. Josef Mengele, he was not among the accused during these trials, and was not punished for the atrocities of his experiments.⁷⁷ Mengele lived out his life in hiding in Brazil and Paraguay under different names, seemingly unburdened by the chaos he had caused.⁷⁸ In 1985, one survivor of Auschwitz recalled the horrors of Mengele's works, including his stock of human eyeballs "pinned to his lab wall 'like a collection of butterflies'".⁷⁹ Just as Mengele did, Nazi doctors who took part in these heinous experiments not only casted unspeakable nightmares upon humanity, but went on with their lives showing little remorse for their atrocious actions.⁸⁰ In a Nazi letter from Graum to Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler, Graum states that "one must reckon on cases of death" in regards to a vaccination experiment being conducted.⁸¹ His statement shows that the Nazis expected to encounter potential casualties throughout their experiments, yet continued to conduct their sadistics against modern medical standards.⁸² Under the mendacious mask of research, Nazi doctors and physicians were disguised murderers, with "data" as their

⁷⁵ "The Nuremberg Code". *The Evolution of Medical Ethics*. Rice University, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁷⁶ Bulow, Louis. "The Nazi Doctors". *Auschwitz.dk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Broder, Jonathan. "Auschwitz Survivors Recall Horror of Nazi Experiments". *The Chicago Tribune* 7 Feb. 1985: n.p. *The Chicago Tribune*. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

⁸⁰ Bulow, Louis. "Josef Mengele, The Angel of Death". *Mengele.dk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

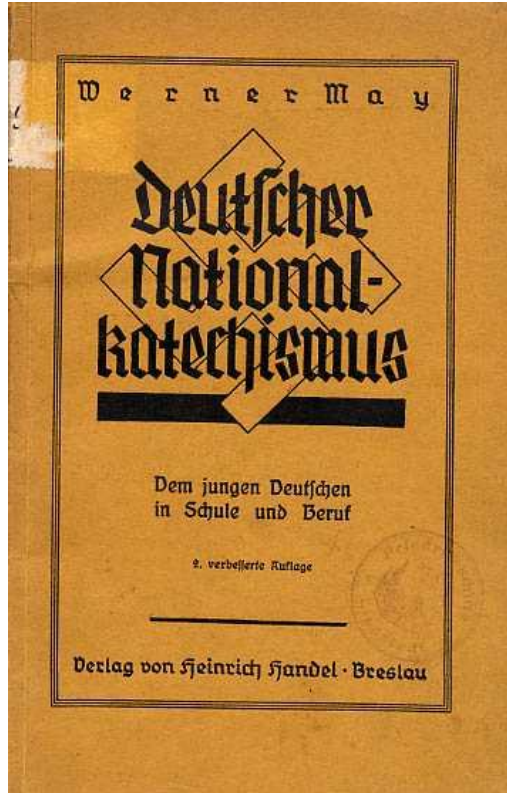
⁸¹ Graum. *Letter to Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler 1 June 1943*. 1943. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

⁸² Ibid.

pseudonym for torture on their prisoners.⁸³ Nonetheless, the Nazi human experiments have implemented a strong message for today's medical world, and a macabre reminder of the horrors of Nazi Germany's ruthless quest for supremacy under Adolf Hitler. Nazi Germany's wrongdoings provides us a grisly warning of what could happen when a doctor abuses the complete trust the patient places upon them. Nazi human experimentation has left an ominous mark on the medical world that is sure to last forever.

⁸³ Cohen, Baruch. "The Ethics of Using Medical Data from Nazi Experiments". *Jewish Virtual Library*. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Appendix A



The German National Catechism. Calvin College. Calvin College. Digital Image. 14 January 2016.

The German National Catechism was one of the various forms of government propaganda used to spread Hitler's racial views. Written for the education of young school children, this pamphlet looked to introduce the 25 focal points of the Nazi party at a young age, and was widely used across Nazi Germany. Within the pamphlet, Germans are depicted as a brilliant race with rich roots, and the Jews as an enemy force striving to destroy German progress. These racial tenets helped define the ways Nazi experiments were conducted, and fueled Hitler's obsession of an "Aryan" master race.

Appendix B



Picture of Josef Mengele. The Nazi Doctors. Auschwitz.dk. Digital Image. 15 January 2016.

This is a picture of the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele, who served at Auschwitz concentration camp. Mengele conducted many experiments regarding the studies of twin births, and set his eyes on conducting as many tests as it took to get as much data as possible. Dr. Mengele was known to often have killed pairs of twins after he was done experimenting upon them, and dissected their bodies. Fittingly, this sadistic doctor earned the nickname “The Angel of Death”. Despite Mengele’s torture, he was never truly brought to justice, and lived in hiding in Brazil and Paraguay until his death. The smile on Mengele’s face shows joy, which completely contrasts all the pain he has brought to his victims.

Appendix C



Nazi Sterilization Law of 1934.. Remembering the Victims of Nazi Eugenics. Deutsche Welle.

Digital image. 15 January 2016.

This is a photograph of the Sterilization Law passed in January, 1934. This allowed the Nazis to hold forced sterilizations upon those with certain mental or physical disabilities, or any people who were considered to have genetic deficiencies. These sterilizations occurred because of Hitler's dream of a master race, in which people would only have desirable physical traits and an ideal German background. Mass sterilization was designed to lower the population of people who did have undesirable traits in order to raise the percentage of those with "Aryan" traits. These sterilizations also led to a series of human experiments testing the fastest and most efficient methods to make a large group of people infertile.

Appendix D



Photograph of Prisoner in Nazi Compression Chamber. 1942. National Archives and Records Administration. Nazi Medical Experiments-Photograph. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Digital Image. 16 January 2016.

This photograph shows a clearly weakened prisoner inside a low-pressure chamber at Dachau concentration camp, which was known for their altitude experiments. Looking to find safe altitudes for Axis pilots, these pressure chambers simulated various altitudes, allowing doctors to look at the physical effects of different atmospheric compositions on the human body. The prisoner in this photograph, just like many others, was murdered as a result of these experiments.

Appendix E



Photograph of Ravensbruck Survivor Jadwiga Dzido. National Archives. NOVA: Holocaust on Trial. PBS. 16 January 2016.

Jadwiga Dzido, a survivor of the Ravensbruck experiments, is showing the scar of a sulfanilamide drug experiment the Nazis conducted upon her. The doctors cut open her leg, introduced various bacteria to the wound, and then rubbed in wood splinters and ground glass to further infect the wound. The doctors then tested a developmental drug on her leg, and awaited their results. Dzido was one the lucky prisoners; many perished as a result of these heinous experiments.

Appendix F



Photograph of Amputation Experiment. The Evolution of Medical Ethics. Rice University. 16

January 2016.

Arguably the most savage Nazi human experiments, doctors at Ravensbruck would amputate limbs off of healthy prisoners in efforts to transplant them on others who lacked that particular limb. All attempts to do this were completely unsuccessful. The majority of these experiments resulted in the death of the victim or permanent disability. Doctors were also known to take sections of nerves and muscles from prisoners also in attempts to transfer them from person-to person.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

Graum. *Letter to Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler 1 June 1943*. 1943. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

This letter shows how the Nazis conducted their experiments regarding the study of particular diseases, in this case Hepatitis epidemica. It also showed me the brutality of their experiments, as it mentions that death could be imminent in regards to this experiment. Not only did this letter show me the Nazi methods of experimentation, but it also showed why the World Court made the decision to indict these Nazi doctors, thus connecting back to my thesis.

The German National Catechism. Calvin College. *Calvin College*. Digital Image. 14 January 2016.

This a photograph of the cover of *The German National Catechism*, one of the key Nazi pamphlets spreading the racial ideas of the political party. I included this photograph in Appendix A because of the document's importance to showing the spread of Hitler's ethnic ideas about the Germans and "undesirable" groups such as the Jews. It was extremely important to shows the Nazi views of races, as this was a key reason why human experiments were conducted.

Kor, Eva. *Surviving the Angel of Death: The True Story of a Mengele Twin in Auschwitz*. Terre Haute: Tanglewood, 2009. Print.

Kor's eyewitness account places a new understanding upon the life and the horrors Mengele twins at Auschwitz were forced into. By being able to see what exactly went on in the laboratories of concentration camps through the golden words of a survivor, we can clearly see the atrocities of the Nazis' crimes against humanity. Kor recounts many of her grisly experiences, and it puts a perspective on these events that you cannot get from any website, textbook, or secondary account.

May, Werner. *The German National Catechism*. TS. Calvin College, Grand Rapids. *Calvin College*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

The German National Catechism was a pamphlet that was designed to inform children about the 25 program points of the Nazi party. This pamphlet included a section illustrating how the Jews were the Nazis' sworn enemies, and instructed Germans to create themselves as a more powerful race. This pamphlet allowed me to see how the Nazi dream of a powerful empire and the extermination of the Jews related to the Nazi human experiments.

Nazi Sterilization Law of 1934. Remembering the Victims of Nazi Eugenics. *Deutsche Welle*. Digital image. 15 January 2016.

This photograph of the Sterilization Law of 1934 is seen in Appendix C, and clearly reflects Hitler's dream of a master race. By demanding sterilization of those with undesirable traits or background, the Nazis could more easily officiate progress of the Aryan race, and quickly become a European superpower. Forced sterilization and its

efficiency was directly tied to a series of human experiments, thus making the law itself a valuable source to show the Nazi's motives behind these experiments.

The Nuremberg Code 1947. 1947. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Web. 21 December 2015.

The Nuremberg Code, created at the end of the Nazi Doctors Trial, show the ethical changes that came as a result from Nazi human experimentation. The Nuremberg Code showed me the guidelines that were formed as a result of these Nazi trials, and the impact Nazi human experimentation led to on the medical world. Although Nazi human experimentation was extremely horrible and unethical, the Nuremberg Code leaves a silver lining, as it protects our future from anything similar to these nightmares from ever happening again.

Nyiszli, Miklos. *Auschwitz: A Doctor's Eyewitness Account*. New York: Arcade Publishing, 2011. Print.

Dr. Nyiszli, a Jew who was forced to perform experiments and dissections on other Auschwitz inmates, wrote this account to show the horrors of Nazi concentration camps to the outside world, eerily in the voice of a doctor himself. This eyewitness account both shows the dark happenings of Auschwitz and the pain and suffering of those imprisoned in Nazi death camps. This account was very important to my understanding of Nazi experiments, and really helped me feel the pain of those who suffered tremendously during this time.

Opening Statement in the Doctors Trial by Brig. General Telford Taylor. 1946. TS. University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City. *University of Missouri-Kansas City*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

General Taylor's opening statement in the Doctors Trial put a strong insight on the pain and suffering the Nazi human experiments caused, which is an important aspect for me to understand to develop my thesis. It showed the motives behind why the Nuremberg Doctors Trial found Nazi doctors and physicians guilty and yielded the Nuremberg Code. Also, I used a quote from this statement to open my paper and introduce the atrocities of what the Nazis did.

Photograph of Amputation Experiment. The Evolution of Medical Ethics. Rice University. 16 January 2016.

Another photograph, I used this image of severed limbs in Appendix F. These were the limbs of the victims of amputation experiments, some of the most gruesome Nazi tests during the Holocaust. No attempts to transport these limbs to other humans were successful; these arms and legs were needlessly amputated for no reason. This image plants an ominous, macabre image into my mind, and made me see the nightmares of these experiments even clearer than before.

Photograph of Prisoner in Nazi Compression Chamber. 1942. National Archives and Records Administration. *Nazi Medical Experiments-Photograph*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Digital Image. 16 January 2016.

This photograph of an unconscious prisoner in a Nazi compression chamber was used in Appendix D, and clearly illustrates the horrors of these Nazi experiments. The visual of

this torture is a quite strong image, showing how heartless the Third Reich doctors were to allow a prisoner to be this weakened through an experiment. This photograph truly told me a lot about how these altitude experiments were conducted.

Photograph of Ravensbruck Survivor Jadwiga Dzido. National Archives. *NOVA: Holocaust on Trial*. PBS. 16 January 2016.

Found in Appendix E, this photograph of Jadwiga Dzido shows how the Nazi human experiments scarred people for life, in this case in regards to sulfanilamide drug experiments. The distinct disfiguration on Dzido's leg is evidence of the horrible methods used during this experiment, and proved to be further evidence during the Doctors Trials against the Nazis. This strong image illustrates the torture this woman, and many other unfortunate victims, went through during the Holocaust.

Picture of Josef Mengele. The Nazi Doctors. *Auschwitz.dk*. Digital Image. 15 January 2016.

Used in Appendix B, this photograph of Josef Mengele's face shows us a lot about one of the key villains of the Holocaust. With a smile on his face, Mengele seems to show no remorse for his actions in this photograph, instead feeling a sadistic joy. Mengele's dark actions seem unreflected in this picture, giving an opportunity to show how these doctors seemed to show little guilt for their unethical deeds.

Reichsfuhrer SS-Hauptamt. *Racial Policy 1943*. 1943. Calvin College, Grand Rapids. *Calvin College*. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Racial Policy was a pamphlet that was primarily designed to educate Nazi officers about Nazi racial views. By seeing how this pamphlet illustrated other races in comparison to what the Nazis believed Germany was, I was able to connect this to why the Nazis ignored ethicality in order to gain knowledge of the human body to create a stronger race. Also, this pamphlet showed me why the Nazis targeted the Jews not only for extermination, but as subjects for their gruesome experiments.

SS-Standartenfuhrer Sievers. *Letter to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Dr. Brandt 2 Nov. 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015. SS-Standartenfuhrer Sievers' letter to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Dr. Brandt clearly illustrates how the Nazis targeted the Jews and other races that they imprisoned to conduct their gruesome experimentation upon. Thus, I was able to conclude that the Nazis' racism and prejudice against the Jews also extended over to their experimentation, and was able to use this letter to back up this point.

SS-Sturmabfuhrer Brandt. *Letter to SS-Obersturmbannfuhrer Sievers 21 March 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015. This letter references the altitude experiments the Nazis conducted at Nazi concentration camps such as Dachau, which was mentioned in the letter. Also, the letter talked about a Nazi air force officer partaking in the conduction of these experiments, which showed me the military connection to experiments and the Nazi's motives to gain knowledge for their armed forces.

SS-Untersturmfuhrer Rascher. *Letter to Reichsfuhrer-SS Himmler 11 May 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

This letter contained a summary of the conduction of altitude experiments, which strongly influenced my research over how Nazi experiments were conducted. Also, the fact Rascher is communicating this information to Himmler shows how the Nazi doctors were bound to reporting their results to the higher officers, which told me more about what was done with the results of experiments and how the information was applied

SS-Untersturmfuhrer Rascher. *Report about intense cooling experiments in Dachau concentration camps 10 Sep. 1942*. 1942. TS. University of South Florida, Tampa. *University of South Florida*. Web. 20 Dec. 2015.

Dr. Rascher's report explains the process behind the cooling experiments conducted at concentration camps such as Dachau, which enhanced my understanding of the cooling experiments and the brutality behind them. Also, the report talks about the victims being dressed in aviator gear, which helped me understand the Nazi motive to enhance military knowledge within these experiments.

Secondary Sources

Broder, Jonathan. "Auschwitz Survivors Recall Horror of Nazi Experiments". *The Chicago Tribune* 7 Feb. 1985: n.p. *The Chicago Tribune*. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This article was very illuminating in regards to explaining the horrors that occurred at Auschwitz under Dr. Josef Mengele. This article provided multiple specific circumstances showing the unethically of Nazi experimentation, and was extremely important when I was supporting my thesis using the individual case of Auschwitz. This article really showed the inhumanities of Nazi human experimentation, from a variety of witnesses.

Bulow, Louis. "Josef Mengele, The Angel of Death". *Mengele.dk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

This web page was one of my most important sources in the understanding of one of the key characters in Nazi human experimentation, Josef Mengele. Perhaps one of the most infamous Nazi doctors, it was extremely important for me to learn about Mengele and the horrors he led and conducted at Auschwitz. The acts of Josef Mengele gave me a particular example to use when supporting my thesis.

Bulow, Louis. "The Nazi Doctors". *Auschwitz.dk*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

This page discussed many different Nazi doctors, and explained their individual deeds. As a result, I was able to connect certain experiments to both a name and often a group of camps, giving me a greater understanding of the experiments themselves. This page also talks extensively about the trials themselves, and contained information pertinent to my understanding of what exactly went on in the World Court when 23 Nazi doctors and physicians found guilty of war crimes.

Cecil, Hugh. "The 'rabbits' of Ravensbrück: a horrific account of the medical experiments performed at Hitler's only all-female concentration camp". *The Spectator* 31 Jan. 2015: n.p. *The Spectator*. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This article about Ravensbruck was one of the key sources I utilized to learn about what specifically occurred at the only all-female concentration camp in regards to experimentation. By learning about the inhumanities that occurred at each camp, I was

able to easily support my thesis using multiple specific examples. Ravensbruck was a strong example for me to show how unethical the medical experiments were.

Cohen, Baruch. "The Ethics of Using Medical Data from Nazi Experiments". *Jewish Virtual Library*. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

Cohen's analysis of Nazi medical experimentation spans across many branches of my topic, and was extremely applicable to my research. It talks about the unethically of the Nazis performing these experiments, which I can directly link to my thesis, and showed me how sadistic the Nazis were about hurting and killing other humans to gain data for their own good.

"Deadly Medicine: Creating the Master Race". *Jewish Virtual Library*. American-Israeli Cooperative Enterprise, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

This web page talks about the Nazi idea of a master race, and what the Nazis did to achieve their goals. I was able to connect the idea of a master race to the Nazi experiments, as one of the motives of the experiments was to speed the progression and creation of the German Aryan race. It was extremely important for me to learn the motives behind the Nazi experiments, as it was a key point that needed to be addressed.

Leszczyński, Kazimierz. "Ravensbruck Medical Experiments in the Women's Concentration Camp". University of Toronto, 1960. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page provided me with information about the experiments that occurred at Ravensbruck concentration camp, which gave me another particular example I could use to support my thesis. In order for me to most effectively get my points across, using multiple specific examples from the Holocaust was necessary. This web page about Ravensbruck was influential in making my thesis even stronger.

"Medical Experiments of the Holocaust and Nazi Medicine". *Remember.org*. N.p., n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

This web page contained detailed descriptions about numerous types of experiments the Nazis conducted, and helped me understand all of the horrors of Nazi experiments. All of the information contained on this web page provided a strong description of some aspect of my topic, and was connectable to my thesis. It was very important for me to understand everything the Nazis did in their experiments, and this page was one of my key sources I used to increase my knowledge on my topic.

"Nazi Ideological Theory". *Nazism.net*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page strengthened my knowledge over Nazi racial views, and how they came to be. Understanding the Nazis' beliefs and views made it easier for me to see why the Nazis conducted experiments against certain groups of people, and tried to advance their medical knowledge to become supreme over other races.

"Nazi Medical Experiments". *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

This web page was extremely helpful and greatly contributed to my understanding of why the Nazis conducted the heinous experiments they did. It divided Nazi experiments into three categories, which really helped me group and classify each experiment to its

cause. Overall, this article laid out a summary of everything the Nazis did, and answered many of the questions I had about my topic.

“Nazi Racism”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page talked about how Hitler and the Nazis desired a racially “Aryan” race, which was very helpful in explaining the motives behind Nazi experimentation. The Nazi desire of a master race showed me that the Nazis conducted the gruesome experiments they did to become a more powerful race over the others. All in all, this web page taught me a lot about why the Nazis conducted the experiments they did, and was very helpful in my research.

“The Nuremberg Code”. *The Evolution of Medical Ethics*. Rice University, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page analyzed the impact the Nuremberg Code had on the medical world, and compared it to the Hippocratic Oath. This web page helped me gain a better understanding over the monumental impact the Nuremberg Code truly had, and the ethical change it brought.

“Nuremberg Code”. *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page explained how the Nuremberg Code came to be, and explains perhaps the most important result of the Doctors Trial. An understanding of the impact of this landmark document was extremely important, as I was able to use it to show the change on the medical world as a result of the unethicity of the Nazi experiments.

“Nuremberg Trials”. *History.com*. A+E Networks, 2010. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page provided me an overall understanding of the Nuremberg Trials, and more specifically the Doctors Trial. Learning some of the statistics behind the war crimes the Nazi doctors committed was extremely important for me, because having numbers to back up my thesis would make it stronger. This web page gave me the numbers necessary to further progress my knowledge over the topic of Nazi human experimentation.

“Primary Sources”. *Medical Experimentation during the Holocaust*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Dec. 2015.

This web page contained photographs from different Nazi concentration camps of medical victims, accompanied by a secondary source description of what occurred at each concentration camp. These descriptions told me a lot about each concentration camp’s individual horrors, which was important to my research. Knowledge of each concentration camp’s experiments gave me multiple example to use when supporting my thesis.

Tyson, Peter. “The Experiments”. *NOVA - Holocaust on Trial*. PBS, 2000. Web. 21 Dec. 2015.

This web page explained many different Nazi experiments in detail, and I could use this information to further support my thesis. This web page further strengthened my understanding of everything the Nazis did, and contained valuable information applicable to many branches of Nazi human experimentation. This web page was one of my most

valuable secondary sources in regards to explaining the horrors of the experimentation itself.